GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5469
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
EMPLOYMENT IN ABANDONED MINING TOWNSHIPS
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in normal circumstances, a mining township is destinated to die when a mining company depletes the mineral resources and leaves for a new location resulting in social and economic disruption in old township;

(b) if so, whether the Government have contemplated any policy in regard to broad base activities and sources of employment in abandoned townships; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL)

(a) to (c): Under the National Mineral Policy, 1993, it has been provided that mineral deposits being exhaustible, once the process of economical extraction of a mine is complete, there is need for its closure. Whenever mine closure becomes necessary, it should be orderly and systematic and so planned as to help the workers and the dependent community rehabilitate themselves without undue hardship. It is known quite in advance before the actual closure of the mines that the mining activity in the area would cease. The mining lease holding Companies facilitate smooth transition through a policy of offering voluntary retirement as well as absorbing the surplus personnel to the extent feasible in other units of the mining company, and in some cases also undertake career counseling on alternative means of employment. The community facilities and services maintained by the mining company are also gradually handed over to other service providers, including the State Government concerned.